



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, September 29, 2009
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INDIANAPOLIS MAN SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

PRESS RELEASE

Indianapolis - Hatiem Omar, 43, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 24 months in prison late yesterday by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following his guilty plea to False Statement in a Health Care Matter, announced Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, and Greg Zoeller, Indiana Attorney General. This case was the result of a six month investigation by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, and the Indiana Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Hatiem Omar plead guilty to submitting an application to become an authorized provider of transportation services to the Indiana Medicaid Program. Omar was convicted of defrauding the Wisconsin Medicaid Program in 1995. As a result of that conviction, Omar was prohibited from providing any services to Medicare or Medicaid.

In September 2004, Omar, using the name of another person, submitted an application to become a provider to the Indiana Medicaid Program for the enrollment of an entity named Courteous MAV. In addition to hiding his involvement with the company, Omar certified that no employee, agent, or owner of Courteous MAV had been excluded from or convicted of a criminal offense related to that person's involvement in any program under Medicare, Medicaid, or the Title XX services program since the inception of those programs. As a direct result of those misstatements, the Indiana Medicaid Program approved the application of Courteous MAV. Courteous MAV defrauded the Indiana Medicaid Program of \$60,695.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge Barker noted that the Indiana Medicaid Program was particularly vulnerable to schemes such as the one contrived by Omar. Judge Barker also noted that Omar's criminal history suggested that a sentence of 24 months imprisonment was necessary for deterrent value.

"This longer-than-normal sentence of 24 months is richly deserved by this individual who exploited Medicaid patients who depend on transportation to their medical appointments. Exploiting taxpayers by getting reimbursed for higher wheelchair-van rates instead of cab fare will not be tolerated," Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller said. "Our investigator from the Indiana Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Ronnie Formyduval, worked hard with other agencies to shut down a multi-state conspiracy of cab companies overbilling Medicaid, and he won an award for his tireless efforts," Zoeller added.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley P. Shepard, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed three years supervised release following Omar's release from prison. During the period of supervised release, Omar must not be involved with any medicare/medicaid program for the period of supervision. Omar was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$60,695.

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